

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 125975
ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SIG-03 PA-02 INR-10
OES-07 /061 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/PA:JMPOPE:PC
APPROVED BY ACDA/PA:JMPOPE
-----008349 180323Z /70

P 172353Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 125975

USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: MAY 17 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1. DAVID S. BRODER, IN OP-ED ARTICLE IN WASHINGTON POST,
SAID "THERE IS SENSE HERE THAT AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY IS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 125975

SHIFTING IN MORE ANTI-SOVIET DIRECTION AND THAT SOME OF
RHETORIC AND ASSUMPTIONS OF COLD WAR PERIOD ARE BEING
REVIVED." BRODER SAID "PRECIPITATING CAUSE OF CHANGE IS
GROWING EVIDENCE OF RUSSIAN-CUBAN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA."
BUT, HE OBSERVED, IT GOES BEYOND AFRICA DRAMA AND INVOLVES
PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF OVERALL POWER BALANCE BETWEEN U.S. AND
SOVIET UNION "AND WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT SOVIET ASSURANCES

OF PEACEFUL INTENT." POST WRITER SAID "NEW SURVEY OF AMERICAN OPINION, OUT THIS WEEK, INDICATES THAT MORE AMERICANS NOW BELIEVE THAT RUSSIA WOULD HAVE UPPER HAND IN MILITARY STRUGGLE WITH U.S. THAN BELIEVE REVERSE." BRODER SAID IT IS "CLEAR AS ANYTHING CAN BE" THAT IF NEW SALT AGREEMENT IS NEGOTIATED, "IT WILL TRIGGER MOST SERIOUS FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE ON RUSSIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS SINCE END OF VIETNAM WAR." JUDGING FROM WHAT ONE HEARS FROM THOSE WHO TRAVEL FOREIGN POLICY CIRCUIT ON BOTH SIDES OF ATLANTIC, BRODER ADDED, SIMILAR DEBATE IS ALREADY WELL UNDER WAY AMONG LEADERSHIP GROUPS IN MOST NATO COUNTRIES. "AND 'HAWKS' ARE WINNING BY POINTING TO SAME BUILDUP OF SOVIET MILITARY POWER AND SAME DEPLOYMENT OF CUBAN FORCES ACROSS AFRICA THAT DISTURB PEOPLE HERE," BRODER CONTINUED. BRODER SAID REVIVAL OF COLD-WAR THINKING WOULD PRODUCE DEMAND FOR HIGHER DEFENSE SPENDING TO COUNTER PERCEIVED SOVIET THREAT. THIS WOULD CONFRONT PRESIDENT CARTER "WITH HARDEST KIND OF POLITICAL CHOICE WHETHER TO RESIST PUBLIC PRESSURE FOR STIFFER ANTI-SOVIET STANCE AND ALL THAT IMPLIES, OR GET OUT IN FRONT OF MOVEMENT AND TRY TO LEAD IT....UNLESS SIGNS ARE MISLEADING, CARTER AT THIS POINT LACKS PERSONAL AND POLITICAL STRENGTH TO RESIST SUCCESSFULLY FORCES THAT ARE GATHERING HERE AND IN OTHER NATO COUNTRIES TO STIFFEN RESISTANCE TO WHAT IS PERCEIVED AS SOVIET AGGRANDIZEMENT."

2. GILBERT LEWTHWAITE OF BALTIMORE SUN REPORTED THAT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 125975

PRESIDENT CARTER, FACED WITH NEW POTENTIAL SOVIET-CUBAN CHALLENGES IN ETHIOPIA AND ZAIRE, TOLD CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS YESTERDAY HE NEEDS GREATER FLEXIBILITY TO PROVIDE SPEEDY U.S. ASSISTANCE TO OVERSEAS ALLIES. LEWTHWAITE SAID CARTER "COMPLAINED THAT HE IS HAMSTRUNG BY POST-VIETNAM LIMITATIONS ON EXECUTIVE ACTION TO AID FRIENDS IN TROUBLE." HE SAID CARTER DID NOT ASK FOR ANY SPECIFIC REMEDY, BUT SUGGESTED CONGRESS SHOULD CONSIDER AMENDING RESTRICTIONS ON MILITARY AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BY U.S. WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN JODY POWELL SAID DISCUSSION CENTERED ON NEED TO FIND WAYS TO USE RESOURCES TO ASSIST U.S. ALLIES "SHORT OF MILITARY INTERVENTION AND INVOLVEMENT." AMENDMENTS BY SENATORS DICK CLARK AND EDWARD BROOKE TO INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT OF 1976 PLACED RESTRICTIONS ON U.S. MILITARY AID PROGRAMS.

3. SYNDICATED COLUMNIST MARY MC GRORY, WRITING IN WASHINGTON STAR, CONTINUED TO EXPRESS OPPOSITION TO PRESIDENT'S PLAN TO SELL AIRCRAFT TO SAUDI ARABIA. "BUT FOR HIS 'WARPLANES-FOR-PEACE' PUSH, HIS INSISTENCE ON SELLING 60 F-15'S TO ROYAL DICTATOR OF SAUDI ARABIA, HE HAS CHOSEN TO REVERT TO ONE OF MOST SERVICABLE CREEDS PRESIDENT IN

TROUBLE CAN REACH FOR. IN HIS NEW TOUGH ROLE, HE HAS TAKEN ANOTHER LOOK AT SOVIET MENACE AND FOUND IT JUST AS ALARMING AS ANY OF HIS PREDECESSORS....BUT IF HE'S SERIOUS ABOUT SALT--AND THERE IS INCREASING QUESTION THAT HE IS-- HE'S CREATING CLIMATE THAT MAKES IT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE. WHY SHOULD WE EVEN THINK ABOUT SITTING DOWN TO DISCUSS NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT WITH CROWD THAT IS RACIST, ATHEISTICAL AND PICKING ON OUR NOBLE NEW FRIENDS, SAUDI ARABIANS?'

4. AVIATION WEEK AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY REPORTED THAT SOVIET OFFICIALS HAVE PRIVATELY CONFIRMED U.S. ESTIMATES OF

BACKFIRE BOMBER PRODUCTION OF 2.5 TO THREE PER MONTH, BUT THEY ARE REFUSING TO CONFIRM THEM OFFICIALLY WITHIN SALT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 125975

FRAMEWORK. SOVIET UNION, HOWEVER, AGREED TO PROVIDE U.S. WITH FLIGHT PROFILE DATA ON BACKFIRE AND WITH COLLATERAL CONSTRAINTS ON BACKFIRE BASING AND AERIAL REFUELING. "THERE IS STILL NO FORMAL AGREEMENT ON WHAT FORM BACKFIRE CONSTRAINTS WILL TAKE, AND BOTH SIDES HAVE AGREED TO LEAVE IT FOR AN ANTICIPATED LATE SUMMER SUMMIT MEETING IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND SOVIET LEADER LEONID I. BREZHNEV," AVIATION WEEK SAID. MAGAZINE ALSO REPORTED THAT PENTAGON IS FIGHTING ADMINISTRATION ON PERMITTING AN EXEMPTION FOR DEPLOYMENT OF NEW ICBM PROTOTYPE, PARTICULARLY SOVIET SYSTEM TO REPLACE SS-11. IF THAT EXEMPTION AND ONE FOR NEW SLBM PROTOTYPE ARE ALLOWED, "IT WOULD WATER DOWN TREATY PROTOCOL SO THAT IT HAMPERS ONLY U.S. CRUISE MISSILE DEPLOYMENT," AVIATION WEEK NOTED. "THERE IS NOW SOME ADMINISTRATION INSISTENCE THAT ICBM AND SLBM DEPLOYMENT EXEMPTIONS BE HANDLED IN TEXT OF TREATY, INSTEAD OF THREE-YEAR PROTOCOL BECAUSE ONLY ONE MISSILE IN EACH CATEGORY WILL BE PERMITTED. THIS ISSUE WAS TABLED LAST MONTH IN MOSCOW AND IS EXPECTED TO BE RAISED AGAIN AMONG SALT TWO NEGOTIATORS IN GENEVA, OR LATER THIS MONTH WHEN SOVIET MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANDREI GROMYKO VISITS U.S." VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, AMBASSADORS, PRESS SUMMARIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE125975
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JMPOPE:PC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780208-0961
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780547/aaaabodv.tel
Line Count: 158
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7addb39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ACDA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2658997
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAY 17 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL INTEREST LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR
TAGS: PARM, SOPN
To: GENEVA USSALTTWO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7addb39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014